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Security Council

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Letter dated 11 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Colombia in April 2011 (see annex).

The document was prepared under my responsibility, after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Néstor **Osorio**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 11 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Colombia (April 2011)

Introduction

Under the presidency of Colombia in April 2011, the Security Council held 35 meetings, including 18 consultations, eight informational meetings, two open debates and two meetings with countries contributing troops and police forces to peacekeeping operations. The Council adopted five resolutions and two presidential statements and issued four statements to the press.

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

On 4, 8 and 11 April, informal consultations were held on developments in the political and humanitarian situation in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as the implementation of the Council's decisions on its situation.

On 13 April, the Security Council received the twenty-seventh progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2011/211) and heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, Choi Young-jin; the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Valerie Amos; and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay. The Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire, Ambassador Youssoufou Bamba, also made a statement. After holding informal consultations, the members of the Council adopted a statement to the press, in which, inter alia, they welcomed the fact that President Alassane Dramane Ouattara was in a position to assume his responsibilities as Head of State of Côte d'Ivoire, urged the parties to work together to promote national reconciliation and restore sustainable peace, and expressed appreciation to the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States for the roles they had played in resolving the conflict.

On 28 April, the Council, by resolution 1980 (2011), decided, inter alia, to renew until 30 April 2012 the measures imposed by paragraphs 7 to 12 of resolution 1572 (2004), paragraph 5 of resolution 1946 (2010), paragraph 12 of resolution 1975 (2011) and paragraph 6 of resolution 1643 (2005), concerning the arms embargo, travel ban, freezing of assets and blocking of financial transactions and restrictions on transactions involving rough diamonds, respectively. By resolution 1980 (2011), the Council likewise extended until 30 April 2012 the mandate of the Group of Experts as set out in paragraph 7 of resolution 1727 (2006), requesting the Group to submit a midterm report to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) by 15 October 2011 and to submit a final report to the Council through the Committee 15 days before the end of its mandate period. After the adoption of the resolution, the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire made a statement.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

On 4 April, the Council heard the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Abdel-Elah Mohamed Al-Khatib, who gave a briefing on the activities carried out in fulfilment of his mandate. The Special Envoy reported on his participation in the London Conference on Libya of 29 March, at which the International Contact Group on Libya was established, and also informed the Council about the meetings held in Tripoli and Benghazi. He also made reference to the meeting held by the African Union on 31 March for the purpose of analysing various options to resolve the crisis in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. In the informal consultations that followed the informational meeting, the members of the Council exchanged views on the question and analysed the unfolding events.

In accordance with paragraph 12 of resolution 1973 (2011), closed consultations were held on 28 April, at which the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, gave a briefing on the situation in Libya and the status of implementation of resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011). The Under-Secretary-General provided a summary of recent events and highlighted the efforts of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs to address the growing humanitarian crisis and of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to resolve the situation and, in accordance with his mandate, to find a political solution to the crisis. The members of the Council subsequently exchanged views on the question.

Western Sahara

On 18 April, a private meeting was held at which the Council and the countries contributing troops and police forces to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) received a briefing by the Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber, after which it adopted an official communiqué (S/PV.6516).

On 19 April, the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Christopher Ross, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and Chief of MINURSO, Hany Abdel-Aziz, updated the Council on their activities and submitted the report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2011/249). The members of the Council held an exchange of views on the question.

Later, on 27 April, by resolution 1979 (2011), the Council extended the mandate of MINURSO until 30 April 2012 and called upon the parties to continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue in order to enter into a more intensive and substantive phase of negotiations. The representatives of South Africa, Nigeria, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France and Gabon made statements at the meeting.

Somalia

On 11 April, by resolution 1976 (2011) concerning piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, the Council decided to urgently consider the establishment of specialized Somali courts to try suspected pirates both in Somalia and in the region, including an extraterritorial Somali specialized anti-piracy court,

as referred to in the recommendations contained in the report of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Legal Issues Related to Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, Jack Lang (S/2011/30, annex), consistent with applicable human rights law. The Secretary-General was requested to report within two months on the modalities of such prosecution mechanisms.

Sudan

On 14 April, the Council held a private meeting with the countries that contribute troops and police forces to the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS). The Director of the Africa I Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Margaret Carey, gave a briefing, which was followed by an exchange of views and information, in addition to the adoption of an official communiqué (S/PV.6514).

On 20 April, an informational meeting was held, followed by informal consultations, at which the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Atul Khare, discussed the reports of the Secretary-General (S/2011/239 and S/2011/244). The Assistant Secretary-General briefed the Council on recent events in the Sudan and the activities of UNMIS and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). The members of the Council exchanged views on the question.

On 21 April, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2011/8), and on 27 April it unanimously adopted resolution 1978 (2011), extending the mandate of UNMIS until 9 July 2011.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 1 April, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain LeRoy, briefed the Council on the attack that occurred in Mazar-e-Sharif against personnel of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), in which eight United Nations staff members died. The members of the Council issued a statement to the press condemning the attack and all types of incitement to violence. At the same time, they called on the Government of Afghanistan to bring those responsible to justice and take all possible steps to protect the staff of UNAMA.

Iraq

On 8 April, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and Chief of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), Ad Melkert, gave an informational briefing on the execution of the mandate of the Mission and the situation in Iraq. The Special Representative noted progress in the formation of a new coalition government, while drawing attention to the ongoing legitimate concerns of the Iraqi people regarding the lack of jobs, basic services and institutional commitment. He underlined the high-level visits made by delegations from Kuwait to Iraq and vice versa. With reference to UNAMI, he highlighted the close collaboration with the Council of Representatives and the Government in the

establishment of an independent human rights commission, and also expressed his concern at the reports of violent incidents occurring in the Ashraf camp.

The situation in the Middle East, including the question of Palestine

On 21 April, the Council held an open debate to consider the situation in the Middle East, including the question of Palestine. The Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

The Under-Secretary-General expressed regret at the stalemate in negotiations between Israel and Palestine. He underlined the importance of preventing violent expressions that undermined political efforts and reported that on 13 April in Brussels, at the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, the United Nations had expressed the view that the governmental functions were adequate for a viable State Government in the areas in which it participated with the Palestinian Authority (good governance; the rule of law and human rights; means of subsistence and productive sectors; education and culture; health care; social protection; and infrastructure and water). He noted that, Israeli measures to facilitate movement had also supported economic activity and access to basic services. The Under-Secretary-General reiterated that settlement activities ran counter to international law and the commitments made by Israel under the road map.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, he expressed concern that, several months after the nomination of Najib Mikati as Prime Minister, a new Government had not yet been formed. He said that the overall situation in the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon had remained generally stable.

The Permanent Representative of Israel and the Permanent Observer of Palestine also made statements, and 41 other speakers took part in the meeting.

Americas

Haiti

An open debate on Haiti was held on 6 April, chaired by the President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, who explained that the purpose of the meeting convened by his country was to promote the stabilization and strengthening of the rule of law in Haiti. He regretted the slow progress on rebuilding the country physically and institutionally and emphasized that the international community had a duty to fulfil its commitments to Haiti's reconstruction in a coordinated and coherent manner, seeking specific, sustainable and long-term achievements aimed at strengthening institutions and improving transparency.

The Council was briefed by the Secretary-General, who commended the people of Haiti for taking an important step towards the consolidation of democracy with the peaceful conduct of the second round of polling. The Secretary-General highlighted the progress made towards security and respect for basic freedoms and stressed that the Haitian National Police was becoming a more capable and trusted institution, which was making progress against the advance of criminal gangs and other security threats. He urged the next Government of Haiti to build on the considerable progress made without disregarding the major challenges faced by the country, such as the deterioration in its economy and the incapacity of public

institutions to deliver essential services. The United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti, William J. Clinton, highlighted the role of the Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission established by the President and the Parliament to coordinate the work of the Government of Haiti with that of international donors and the community of non-governmental organizations involved in reconstruction, making sure that all projects approved were consistent with the Government of Haiti's own development plan and that resources were used transparently. the Special Envoy said that over 87 projects had been approved, which, when completed, would help 2 million Haitians. The President of Haiti, René Garcia Préval, invited the United Nations to reflect on the effectiveness of its interventions, and, recognizing that military deterrence was only one aspect of the quest for stability, suggested that peacekeeping missions should be reoriented to include the work of other specialized institutions, such as the World Bank and the United Nations funds and programmes. He stressed that stability in Haiti could be achieved only through the efforts of Haitians themselves, with, obviously, the support and solidarity of the international community, particularly in building those institutions essential to the rule of law. Forty speakers took part in the meeting.

The Council adopted a presidential statement on 6 April (S/PRST/2011/7), in which it reaffirmed its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of Haiti, and emphasized that the Government and people of Haiti bore the primary responsibility for the attainment of peace and stability, and for the recovery efforts in Haiti. The Council acknowledged the contribution that the international community was making to support the stabilization process in Haiti, including the strengthening of its legislative, judicial and executive institutions. It also recognized the interconnected nature of the challenges in Haiti, and reaffirmed that sustainable progress on security, institutional capacity-building, including rule of law, as well as consolidation of national government structures, democracy, promotion and protection of human rights and development, were mutually reinforcing.

Thematic issues

Women and peace and security

On 12 April, the Council held an open meeting to hear a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Michelle Bachelet. In the closed consultations conducted immediately afterwards, the members of the Council heard additional comments by the Under-Secretary-General and put questions to her. Most members expressed their support for the activities and programmes of UN-Women and the need to make progress in the implementation of the relevant Council decisions.

On 14 April, an open meeting on sexual violence was held, followed by closed consultations. The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallström. Following the consultations, the President read a statement to the media on a number of elements agreed by the members of the Council. In particular, it was stated that the members took note of the Special Representative's assessment of the situation in the

Democratic Republic of the Congo and at the border between that country and Angola, as well as her recommendations for addressing situations of sexual violence in the region; that the members noted with satisfaction the announcements regarding cooperation between the two Governments and the implementation of measures to prevent acts of sexual violence and end the associated impunity; that the Council had also heard her briefing on meetings with the African Union and the progress made in the implementation of Council resolution 1960 (2010); and that the members welcomed the announcement regarding increased cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union on that matter and expressed their full support for the Special Representative's efforts to end situations of sexual violence in armed conflict.

Small arms

On 25 April, the Council held closed consultations on small arms. The United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Sergio de Queiroz Duarte, introduced the second report of the Secretary-General on small arms (S/2011/255), submitted pursuant to the presidential statement of 29 June 2007 (S/PRST/2007/24). The Council members thanked the High Representative for the report. That presentation was followed by closed consultations, during which some speakers referred to the negotiations under way on an arms trade treaty, which should establish the highest possible standards for governing the arms trade, while others referred to the importance of cooperation, assistance and national capacity-building and the need to implement fully the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Peace and security in Africa (Kenya)

On 8 April, the Council held consultations regarding Kenya's request that the Council, pursuant to article 16 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, should request the Court to defer certain proceedings against Kenyan citizens initiated *proprio motu* by the Prosecutor in November 2009. Following the consultations, the President read a statement to the media, on behalf of the Council members. In particular, he highlighted that, after receiving the request from Kenya, the Council had held an interactive dialogue in March and informal consultations in April; that the Council had also taken into consideration the position expressed by the African Union; and that, after in-depth consideration, the Council members had been unable to reach agreement on the matter. The President was also instructed to transmit the agreed elements and the letter to the Permanent Representative of Kenya and the Permanent Observer of the African Union, which was done.

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

On 20 April, the Council, by resolution 1977 (2011), extended the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) for a period of 10 years, until 25 April 2021, and provided for two reviews, one after five years and the other prior to the end of the mandate. By that resolution, the Council reiterated its call for States to appropriately implement effective measures to counter the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in the hands of non-State actors. It also reaffirmed the need for all Member States to comply with their obligations and fulfil their commitments in relation to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects of all weapons of

mass destruction and their means of delivery, and recognized that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, constituted a threat to international peace and security. The Council also stressed the need for full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by all States, and emphasized the importance of providing States, in response to their requests, with effective assistance that meets their needs.

Briefing by the Department of Political Affairs

On 18 April, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council on a high-level consultative meeting held in Nairobi on 12 and 13 April, with the aim of initiating a consultation process within the framework of the Transitional Federal Charter of Somalia and the Djibouti Peace Agreement on the future of Somalia after the transition period ending in August 2011. The Under-Secretary-General also referred to the report of the Secretary-General's Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka, submitted to the Secretary-General on 12 April. He said that the report would be made public in due course.